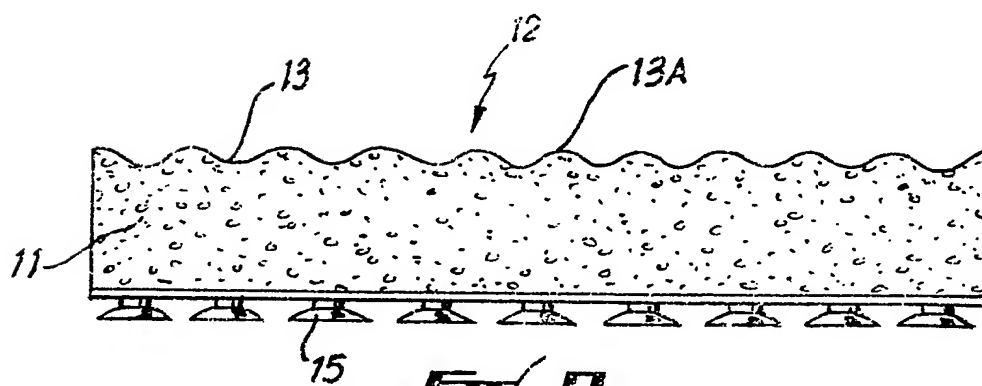
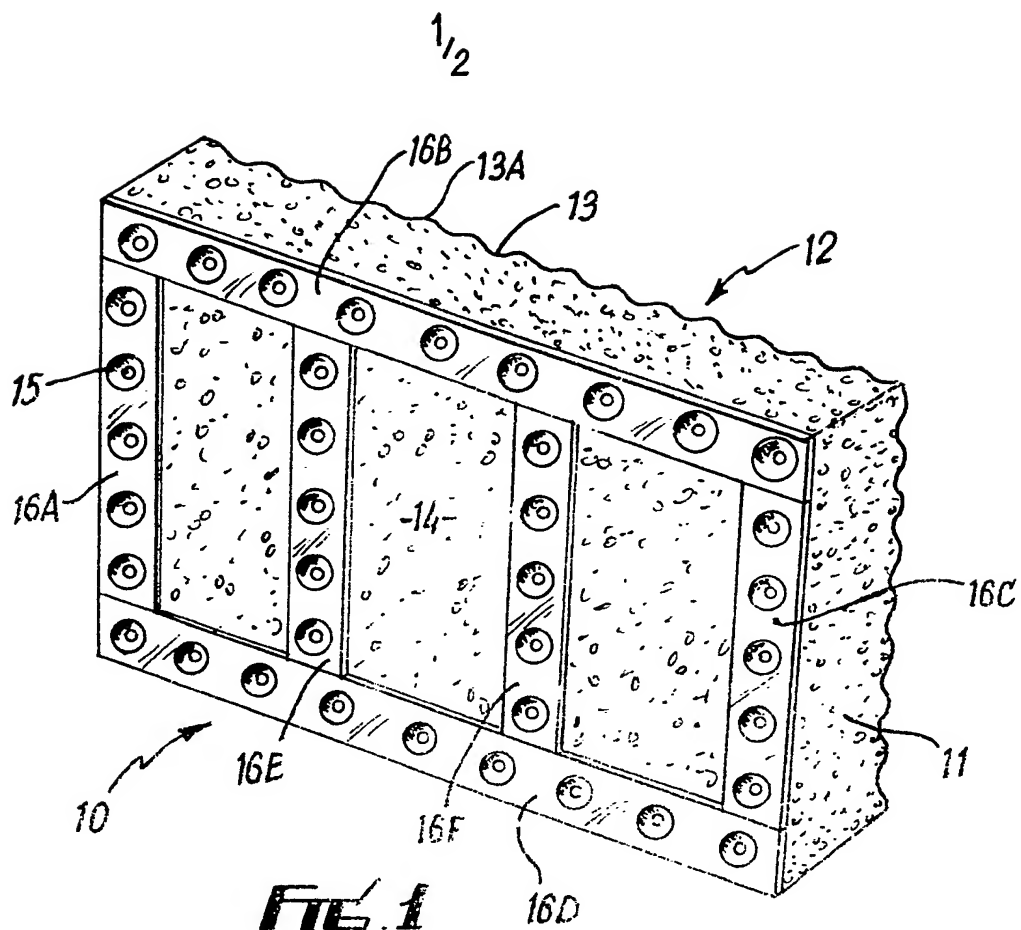


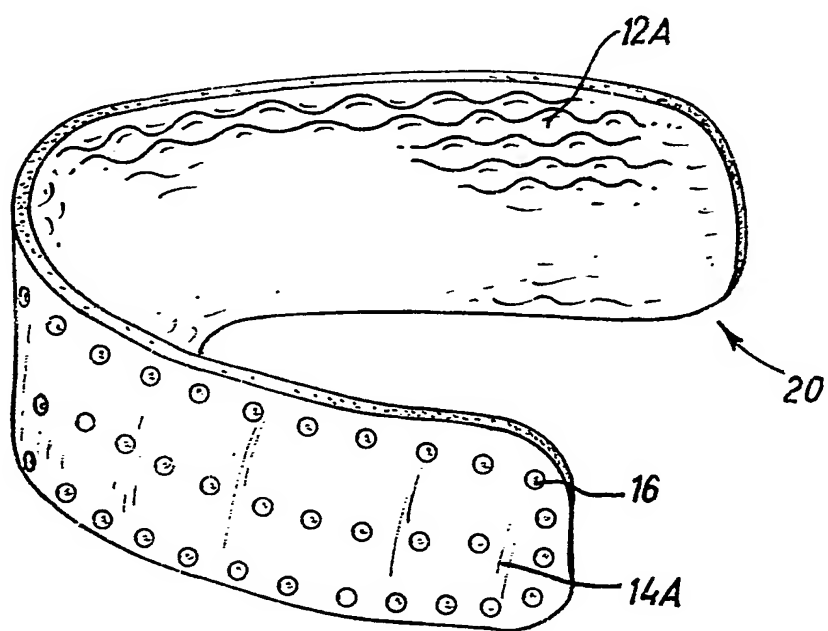
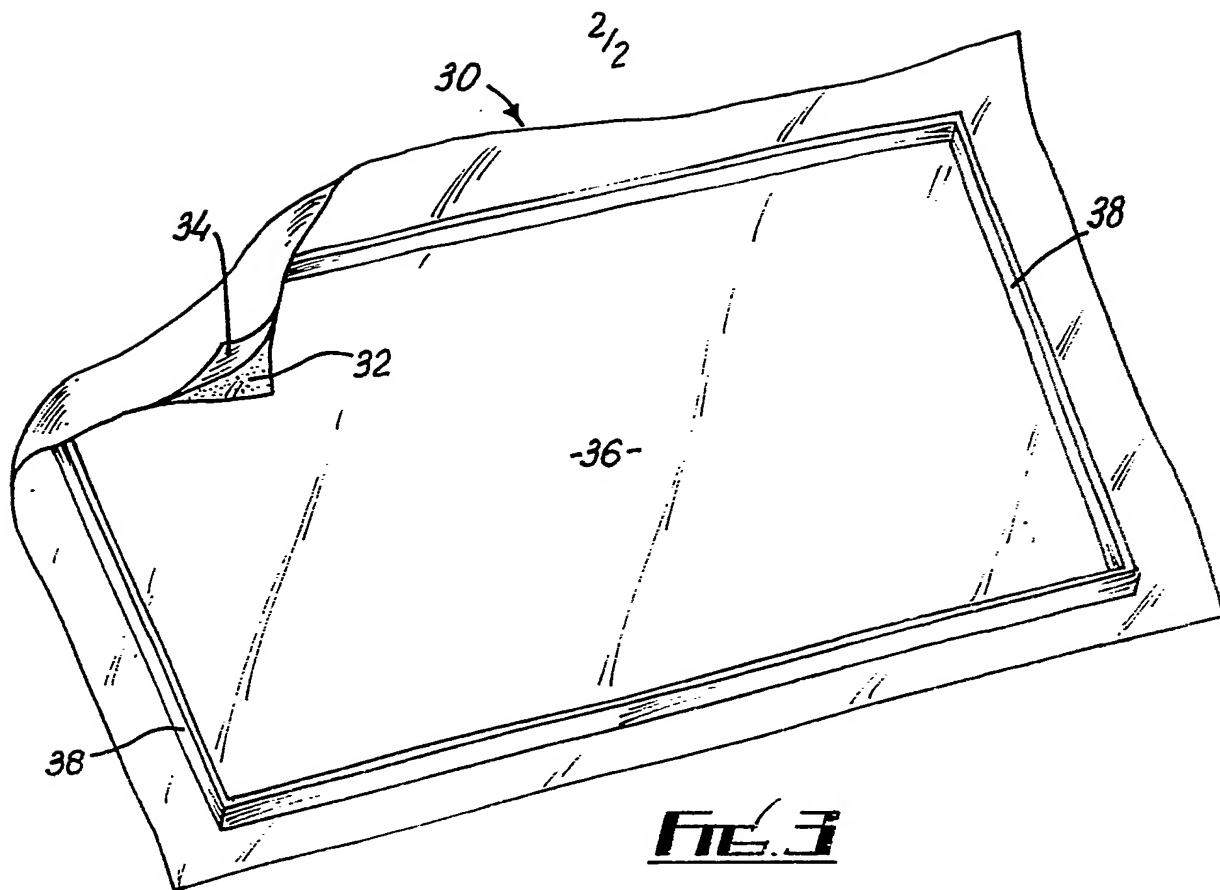
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Washing Device

This invention relates to a washing device for use particularly but not exclusively by a person when bathing or showering to enable the person more easily to wash his or her own back.

According to the invention there is provided a washing device comprising a pad having a surface adapted to be used for washing purposes, and attachment means permitting the pad to be secured to a bathroom fixture or the like with the washing surface facing outwardly therefrom.

The device is intended to be secured to a bathroom fixture. This may for example be an internal wall of a bath, or the floor or an internal wall of a shower cubicle. However it is to be understood that the device of the invention is not limited to use in these locations, but may be attached to any suitable surface in any type of wash room or bathing area where its use may be required.

The pad preferably comprises a liquid absorbent material.

More preferably, the pad comprises a piece of a foamed plastics material such as a synthetic sponge,

which is capable of withstanding repeated immersion in water. The washing surface may for example be provided by a generally planar surface of the pad. However, the washing surface is preferably formed with dimples or ridges or otherwise contoured so that it may in use provide both a massaging effect and improved cleaning properties. Alternatively, the washing surface may comprise a fabric such as towelling mounted over an appropriate face of the pad.

The device may be of any convenient size and shape, for example it may be generally rectangular and thus suitable for attachment in any position within any bath or shower. Alternatively it may be specifically shaped, for example to fit an internal surface of a bath tub.

The attachment means, which should naturally also be capable of withstanding immersion in water, preferably permits releasable attachment of the device to a fixture, so that the device may be repositioned as required each time it is used. The attachment means may comprise at least one suction cap mounted on the reverse of the pad, so that the pad may be attached to a fixture with the washing surface exposed for use. Preferably there is provided a multiplicity of the caps; these may conveniently be arranged in rows at least some of which

are located around or adjacent to the periphery of a reverse surface of the pad, but any other arrangement may be employed.

The attachment means may further comprise a facing sheet for attachment between a fixture and the device.

Preferably the facing sheet comprises a self adhesive sheet of a plastics material for releasable attachment to a fixture prior to the attachment of the suction caps. The free face of the sheet may be provided with means defining a raised border within which may be located the suction caps to minimise movement of the device over the surface of the fixture.

An example of the invention will now be described for purposes of illustration only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a washing device;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the device of Fig.1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a backing sheet for use with the device to Figs. 1 and 2; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of an alternative form of washing device.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2, a washing device 10 comprises a generally rectangular pad 11 of synthetic sponge formed for example from a polyester/polyurethane foam. A front surface 12 of the pad 11 constitutes a washing surface of the device and is provided with a repeating array of dimples 13 and projections 13A for a purpose described hereinafter. A rear surface 14 of the pad 11 is provided with rows of suction caps 15, for example moulded of a plastics material such as PVC and mounted on PVC backing strips 16A to 16F. The strips 16A to 16D are attached to the pad 11 to extend around the outer edge of the surface 14. Two additional strips 16E, 16F extend laterally across the surface 14 in a spaced parallel arrangement. The strips 16A to 16F may be secured to the pad 11 in any suitable manner, for example by means of a waterproof adhesive or by a bonding or laminating process.

The device may be dampened with water prior to being located for use for example on a tiled bathroom wall either adjacent to the side of a bath or within a shower cubicle. The position of the device may be adjusted as necessary, and then the suction caps 15 may

be applied to the wall to fix the device in place. Soap or shower gel may be added to the washing surface 12 before or after the device is fixed in position. A person can then stand in the bath or shower and clean his own back easily without using his hands simply by moving his skin across the washing surface 12 of the device. The dimpled surface provides both a cleaning and a massaging effect.

During use, the device may be rinsed as often as necessary and repositioned as required; for example in a shower it may be moved to the shower tray to be used for washing the feet.

Fig. 3 shows a facing sheet 30 for use with the device 10. The sheet 30 is used in particular when it is required to attach the device to a surface to which the suction caps 15 alone will not adhere sufficiently.

The sheet 30 is a flexible waterproof sheet preferably formed from a plastics material such as PVC. A first surface 32 of the sheet is provided with a layer of a waterproof adhesive, preferably of a kind which will permit the sheet to be adhered to a required surface for use, and subsequently removed without damaging or marking that surface.

Prior to use the adhesive coated surface 32 is protected by a cover sheet 34, for example of a waxed paper. The cover sheet 34 is peeled off the sheet 30 immediately before use to expose the adhesive.

A second surface 36 of the sheet is provided with a projecting ridge 38 defining a rectangular border. The ridge 38 may be formed from strips of a plastics material attached to the surface 36 by a suitable adhesive or a suitable bonding process.

In use the cover sheet 34 is removed as described to expose the adhesive, and the sheet 30 is positioned as required on a dry fixture as defined before and pressed down to ensure good adhesion. The suction caps 15 of the device 10 may then be attached to the plastics surface 36 within the border defined by the ridge 38. The ridge 38 minimises horizontal or vertical movement of the device 10.

Fig. 4 illustrates an alternative device which comprises an elongate, generally rectangular sheet of a foamed material 20 shaped to fit around the back and sides of the internal surface of a domestic bath. The reverse surface 14A of the sheet 20 is provided with the suction caps 16 as before, and the front or washing

surface 12A is contoured to provide a washing and massaging surface. When suitably positioned within the bath, the device may be used in a manner similar to that just described in connection with the device of Figs. 1 and 2. This form of washing device has the additional advantage of providing a cushion around the inside of the bath.

Various modifications may be made without departing from the invention. The pad may be of any convenient size or shape, and made from any suitable material or combination of materials. For example it may comprise a foam pad covered with a fabric such as towelling. The attachment means may be different from that described and shown.

CLAIMS

1. A washing device comprising a pad having a surface adapted to be used for washing purposes, and attachment means permitting the pad to be secured to a bathroom fixture or the like with the washing surface facing outwardly therefrom.
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the pad comprises a liquid absorbent material.
3. A device according to claim 1, wherein the pad comprises a synthetic sponge material.
4. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the washing surface of the pad is contoured.
5. A device according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the washing surface comprises a fabric such as towelling.
6. A device according to any of the preceding claims wherein the attachment means permits releasable attachment of the device to a fixture.
7. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the attachment means comprises at least one

suction cap.

8. A device according to claim 7, wherein the attachment means further comprises a facing sheet for attachment between a fixture and the device.

9. A device according to claim 8, wherein the facing sheet is provided with means defining a raised border within which may be located the suction caps to minimise movement of the device over the surface of the fixture.

10. A washing device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

11. Any novel subject matter or combination including novel subject matter disclosed in the foregoing Specification or Claims and/or shown in the drawings, whether or not within the scope of or relating to the same invention as any of the preceding Claims.

Patents Act 1977
 Examiner's report to the Comptroller under
 Section 17 (The Search Report)

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Application number

9204206.8

Relevant Technical fields

- (i) UK Cl (Edition K) A4V
- (ii) Int CL (Edition 5) A47K

Search Examiner

N A FRANKLIN

Databases (see over)

- (i) UK Patent Office
- (ii) ONLINE DATABASES: WPI

Date of Search

8 MAY 1992

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of claims

1-10

Category (see over)	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
X	GB A 2216000 (FLEMING) Note figures	1,4,6,7
X	GB A 2209933 (EVANS) Note figures	1-4, 6
X	GB 4890352 (STOWERS) Note figures	1-4, 6,7
X	US 4696068 (KENNER) Note column 3 lines 15-20	1,2,4-7
X	US 4417362 (WALKER) Note figures	1-3, 6,7
X	US 4047259 (LOTIS) Note figure 5, column 2 lines 38-43	1-3, 6,7
X	US 4020519 (ROBINSON) Note figure 4	1-3
X	US 3750226 (MORGAN) Note column 2 line 35-52	1-7
X	FR 2631224 (CALLEMAN) Note figures	1-3, 6,7
X	AU 8817574 (PANICH) Note Claim 1	

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)

Categories of documents

X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.

Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.

A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.

P: Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.

E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.

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